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NEWS — 2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Voters fill Town Meeting seats across Winchester; four incumbents unseated

The biggest shakeup came in Precinct 7, where two officeholders lost in an 11-person contest, matching Precinct 4 for the busiest race.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 21, 2026 . 11:04 PM — 4 min read

Campaign signs and supporters line the driveway outside Winchester High School on election da
as voters arrive to cast ballots. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO / PETER CASEY

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Winchester voters elected 68 Town Meeting members across all eight precincts on March 21, with contested races in six of them eliminating 11 candidates who sought seats in the town's legislative body.

Turnout across town was 32.3%, with 4,876 of the town's 15,115 registered voters casting ballots.

Four sitting members lost their seats. Precinct 7 saw the sharpest turnover, where incumbents Brian P. Rowan and Lauren L. L'Esperance were both ousted in an 11-candidate field — the largest on the ballot alongside Precinct 4.

In Precinct 5, incumbent I-Ching Katie Scott fell short despite earning 218 votes. And in Precinct 2, incumbent David S. Judelson was edged out by just two votes in a race so tight it could shift with certification.

Several candidates who had lost in prior years mounted successful comebacks, including Bhavana Upadhyaya in Precinct 4, Jeffrey Calabrese and Jonathan H. Cacciola in Precinct 6 and Gregory M. Bilton in Precinct 5.

Precincts 1 and 8 were the only two where every candidate on the ballot won. The Precinct 2 one-year seat had no named candidate, drawing only 35 write-in votes.

Precinct 1 (uncontested — eight seats, eight candidates)
654 ballots cast; 33.2% turnout

All incumbents returned and won. Ann Sera did not seek re-election. John M. Vickery is new to the precinct's delegation.

- Christa M. Anzalone-Russo, 333
- Amanda G. Lewis, 333

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- Enzo Rascionato, 326
- Gregory S. Sawicki, 323
- Roger B. Wilson Jr., 314
- Meredith A. Mason-Crowley, 312
- Marilyn A. Gagalis, 311
- John M. Vickery, 309

Precinct 2, three-year term (contested — eight seats, nine candidates)
478 ballots cast; 29.9% turnout

Incumbent David S. Judelson was unseated by just two votes, finishing with 178 to Brian M. Sogoloff's 180 for the last seat — a margin that could change with certification. Soumya Ganapathy did not seek re-election. John H. Bellaire and Sara E. Yablon-Smith are new to the delegation.

- Michelle H. Blumsack, 242
- Richard M. Rohan, 241
- John H. Bellaire, 239
- Mike Galvin, 206
- Sara E. Yablon-Smith, 196
- Jay M. Melkonian, 195
- Benjamin D. Keeler, 180
- Brian M. Sogoloff, 180

David S. Judelson fell short with 178 votes. The one-year seat had no named candidate on the ballot.

Precinct 3, three-year term (contested — eight seats, 10 candidates)
732 ballots cast; 36.3% turnout

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Four incumbents — Heather S. Mango, Joan M. Grenzeback, John M. Looney and Lauren Costello — chose not to run again, the most departures in any precinct. All incumbents who did seek re-election won.

Former School Committee member Michelle D. Bergstrom, who stepped down from that board in February after nine years, kept her Town Meeting seat.

- Keri Layton, 350
- Susan Kopman Lewis, 342
- Gerard F. Sheehan, 338
- Lance R. Grenzeback, 324
- Michelle D. Bergstrom, 315
- Elisa M. Jazan, 276
- Rachel M. Chidsey, 267
- Rocio Friedman, 202

John Fallon III (192) and Vincent James Patalano II (179) fell short. Jennifer D. Infurna won the one-year term unopposed with 416 votes.

Precinct 4 (contested — eight seats, 11 candidates)
670 ballots cast; 32.8% turnout

All six returning incumbents won. Steven Bonnell did not run again. Bhavana Upadhyaya, who had previously lost a Precinct 4 race, came back and won. Celine F. Kimberly is also new.

- Brian A. Vernaglia, 304
- Brian R. McCarthy, 290
- Susan F. Schwartz, 280
- Celine F. Kimberly, 238
- Stephen A. Engel, 235

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- My Linh Truong, 235
- Bhavana Upadhyaya, 227
- Jared N. Cumming, 226

Leigh M. Schopp (222), John F. Healey (213) and Aaron M. Shwom (125) fell short.

Precinct 5, three-year term (contested — eight seats, nine candidates)
628 ballots cast; 31.9% turnout

Incumbent I-Ching Katie Scott was unseated. Three incumbents — Heidi R. Rutstein DiLeo, Janice A. Dolan and Alan H. Field — did not seek re-election. Gregory M. Bilton, who had previously lost a Precinct 5 race, came back to win.

- Norah K. Cooney, 279
- Stefanie Mnayarji, 266
- Kathryn J. Hughes, 260
- Charlene C. Band, 257
- Gregory M. Bilton, 253
- Mariano Goluboff, 245
- Donna M. Ashton, 229
- Peter N. Cheimets, 222

I-Ching Katie Scott fell short with 218 votes. Nicholas F. Troisi (295), John I. Snow III (288) and Caroline B. Staudt (263) won the three one-year terms unopposed.

Precinct 6 (contested — eight seats, nine candidates)
562 ballots cast; 28% turnout

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All six returning incumbents held their seats. Taylor Tinmouth and James A. Johnson III (deceased) did not run. Jeffrey Calabrese and Jonathan H. Cacciola, who had each previously lost Precinct 6 races, both won this time.

- Philip A. Frattaroli, 329
- Jeffrey Calabrese, 296
- Richard M. Mucci, 254
- Catherine Cote Tomey, 247
- Patrick W. Matteson, 244
- Robert E. Colt, 239
- Michael F. Bettencourt, 237
- Jonathan H. Cacciola, 225

Marshall Roch fell short with 217 votes.

Precinct 7 (contested — eight seats, 11 candidates)
680 ballots cast; 35% turnout

The roughest night for incumbents. Brian P. Rowan and Lauren L. L'Esperance were ousted — the only precinct where more than one incumbent lost. Leigh Hurd did not seek re-election. Christina S. Marshall, David M. Rogers and Amy P. Hogan are new to the delegation.

- Jean S. Jones, 274
- Megan Blackwell, 271
- Thomas E. Hopcroft, 254
- Jennifer A. Haefeli, 253
- Christina S. Marshall, 243
- David M. Rogers, 237
- Stephen P. Campbell, 232
- Amy P. Hogan, 225

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Brian P. Rowan (218), Lauren L. L'Esperance (208) and Laraine "Rainey" Lennon (179) fell short.

Precinct 8 (uncontested — seven candidates)
472 ballots cast; 30% turnout

All returning incumbents won. Wei Chen did not run again, leaving the precinct with seven candidates for what appears to be seven or eight available seats.

- Michael K. Creane, 255
- Raegan E. McCain, 251
- Alison H. Swallow, 246
- Donald P. Bradford, 246
- Rebecca J. Slisz, 245
- Catherine C. Bauer, 243
- Russell J. Gay, 223

The results are preliminary and subject to certification by Town Clerk MaryEllen Marshall.

Will Dowd is a Massachusetts journalist who covers municipal government and community life for Winchester News. He runs The Marblehead Independent, a reader-funded digital newsroom.

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Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 25, 2026

2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

NEWS

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13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every annual town election since 2014 — 13 years of data covering turnout, ballot questions, Select Board races, School Committee contests and Planning Board results — and compared them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

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March 25, 2026

With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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